



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor
Seattle Public Utilities
Ray Hoffman, Acting Director

FACT SHEET

Solid Waste Rates Frequently Asked Questions

How much are solid waste rates increasing?

Solid waste rates will increase for all customers types on January 1, 2010. The typical residential customer bill will increase from \$29.20 to \$32.70.

January 1, 2010 Rate Changes

Residences	
Garbage Can Service	32-gallon can increases from \$22.30 to \$24.85 per month
Extra Garbage	Remains \$7.60 per bag
Apartment Dumpsters	Varies with service level: A 2 yard dumpster emptied weekly increases from \$236 to \$252 per month
Food and Yard Waste Service	96-gallon cart increases from \$6.90 to \$7.85 per month. 13-gallon mini can increases from \$3.60 to \$4.10 per month.
Extra Yard Waste	Increases from \$2.95 to \$3.90 per 32-gal can, bundle or compostable bag
Other Collection Services	Bulky/Appliance Pick-up: \$30.00 per item Appliances with CFCs: \$38.00 Electronics (Computers, TVs): \$20 per pickup, limit 3 items per collection
Businesses	
Commercial Dumpsters	Varies with service level: A 3 yard dumpster emptied weekly increases from \$332 to \$355 per month
Transfer Stations	
Self Haul Garbage	Increases from \$135 to \$145 per ton Flat Fee/Min Charge increases from \$27 to \$30
Self Haul Yard and Wood Waste	Increases from \$100 to \$110 per ton Flat Fee/Min Charge increases from \$18 to \$20

Why are solid waste rates increasing?



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor
Seattle Public Utilities
Ray Hoffman, Acting Director

FACT SHEET

New solid waste rates support garbage, yard waste and recycling service enhancements begun in 2009, including weekly food and yard waste collection, expanded recycling, and new fuel-efficient trucks. Solid waste rates also support expanding and rebuilding the City's transfer stations to be more efficient and safe, and accommodate expanded recycling.

What can residents do to avoid paying more for their solid waste services?

Seattle offers several garbage container sizes. By downsizing to a smaller size, you can save money and reduce waste going to the landfill.

Food waste makes up over 30 percent of Seattle's garbage. Paper makes up nearly 20 percent. Recycling, composting at home, or subscribing to food and yard waste collection are good ways to reduce your garbage enough that you may be able to use a smaller can size. Preventing waste by buying durable products with less packaging also helps.

Seattle also now offers several food/yard waste cart sizes that are emptied weekly. You can save money by subscribing to a smaller food/yard waste cart size or by composting in your yard.

[Click here to see garbage can rates](#)

[Click here to see food waste/yard waste can rates](#)

[Click here for tips on backyard composting](#)

What happens to my recyclables? How does recycling benefit me?

In 2007, Seattle signed a contract with Allied Waste to sort and ship the City's recyclable materials to manufacturers of recycled content products. Prices for recycled materials were negotiated based on their market value. Seattle's recyclables are collected and delivered to the Allied Recycling Center, in the SODO District, where the materials are sorted and baled for marketing. Allied then sells the materials and ships them to recycling markets around the Northwest, the U.S. and the Pacific Rim to be used in making new products.

Although market values of the recycled commodities vary with economic conditions, the cost of collecting, processing and transporting recyclables is approximately 50 percent less per ton than the cost of shipping the material to the landfill in Arlington, Oregon where Seattle's garbage is disposed.



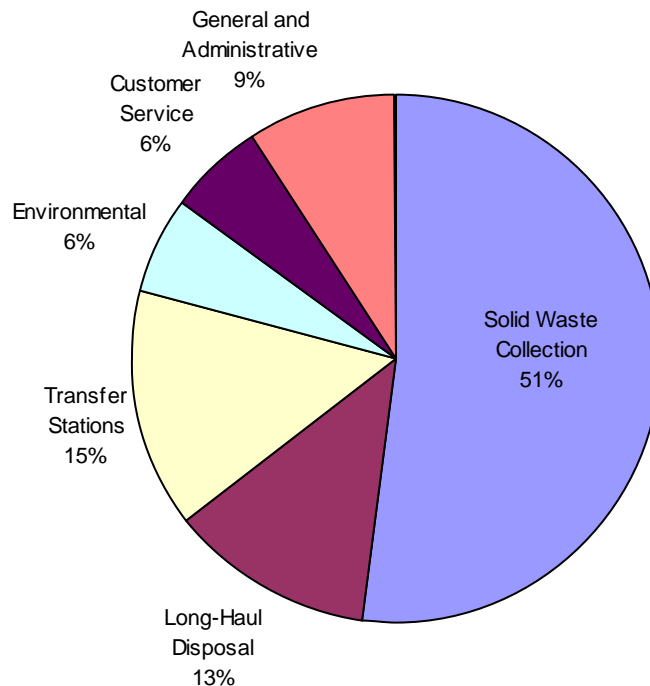
City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor
Seattle Public Utilities
Ray Hoffman, Acting Director

FACT SHEET

What do my solid waste rates pay for?

By 2010 the City's solid waste costs will be about \$160 million annually. Collection and disposal contract costs make up the majority of solid waste expenses. The remainder pays for transfer station infrastructure and operations, environmental activities, customer service, and other general costs that include solid waste planning and recycling program development.



The City of Seattle contracts to have Seattle's garbage picked up from approximately 150,000 households, 6,000 apartments, and 8,000 businesses every week. In addition, the City owns and operates two recycling and disposal transfer stations that run six days a week. Seattle also has several recycling, composting, litter and toxics reductions programs that help keep Seattle clean and green.

What can I do with garbage that doesn't fit in my curbside garbage container?



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Seattle Public Utilities

Ray Hoffman, Acting Director

FACT SHEET

- **Set out "extra" garbage** with your curbside collection. Each extra 32 gallon container or bag will cost \$7.60. No tags are needed.
- Call SPU customer service (206-684-3000) for:

Special garbage collection (\$34.45 for the first can plus \$3.70 for each additional can) **Bulky item or white good collection** (\$30 per item plus an additional \$8 per item if the item contains CFCs)

- Haul garbage to one of the City's transfer stations (minimum fee \$30/load)